

Program Guidelines
Valid from 2026/2027

B.A.

Theology/ Development Studies

The Perspectives

- › The Bachelor's programme in Theology/Development Studies **prepares students for work in a globalised and complex environment** where people with the following skills are needed:
 - › a wide general rather than specified knowledge,
 - › the ability to work in intercultural settings,
 - › being able to think in terms of networks,
 - › a mindset to develop adjusted solutions for a wide variety of problems and challenges.

The Bachelor Theology / Development Studies is designed to enable **employability** in international (faith based) organizations.

- › Possible fields of occupation are:
 - › development worker in international Development Cooperation abroad,
 - › working in headoffices of development organizations,
 - › working with organizations focusing on Humanitarian Aid,
 - › work in the field of education and lobbying with international aid agencies,
 - › mission work,
 - › working in international church partnerships.
- › The Bachelor's degree in Theology/ Development Studies provides the basis for consecutive and advanced Master's degree programs.

The Structure

Structured lower division studies

The first four semesters have a fixed structure. All courses are compulsory and conclude with an exam.

Flexible upper division studies

During the study abroad and in the 7th and 8th semester students choose their specialization. They can focus on specific content areas.

The courses offered as electives are updated each academic year. Students can determine the number of credit points (CP) earned in these courses by choosing the type of examination. This allows individual learning styles to be taken into account as much as possible.

At the IHL, it is possible to continue with the Master's program "Theology – Ministry – World Christianity (in German).



The Facts

- › **Start:** Every winter semester.
- › **Internationality:** The program takes a global perspective and includes a mandatory mobility semester abroad.
- › **Mobility semester:** The IHL cooperates with 12 partner universities worldwide, to which students have facilitated access. Other acknowledged universities can also be chosen for the mobility semester.
- › **Internships:** Take place as part of courses and as a compulsory internship semester in the 6th semester.
- › **Scope:** 8 semesters and 240 CP (approximately 30 CP per semester).
- › **Lower division studies:** 4 semester with compulsory courses and corresponding exams.
- › **Upper division studies:** 4 semester with compulsory and elective courses,
- › **Courses:** Usually offered annually (in winter or summer semester). Most courses are taught in English (Development Studies); some (theological) courses are taught in English or German.*

* For incoming students, additional simultaneous translation support is available upon request for lectures taught in German.

CP:

All courses are assigned credit points (CP) according to the ECTS system.

As a rule, students receive 4 CP for a so-called “qualified participation” in a module and 1 to 2 additional CP depending on the type of examination.



Admission Requirements

- › The regulations applicable in the state of Baden-Württemberg for admission to study at a university of applied sciences (§§ 58 and 59 LHG).
- › Voluntary work of the applicant in a Christian congregation, Christian community or in a Christian youth association, usually for at least one year.
- › The affirmation of the objectives of IHL in the sense of the University Statutes, the respect for the beliefs of others and a willingness to deal with the contemporary relevance of the Biblical message.
- › Adequate language skills in English and German are required.



Structure

Lower division studies

120 CP (ECTS)

- › 4 semesters
- › systematic structure
- › 18 compulsory courses
- › with specified examination in each case
- › assessed with fixed amount of CP

Upper division studies

120 CP (ECTS)

Compulsory courses

- › 7 courses with examinations incl. Bachelor thesis and internship semester abroad
- › Form of examination and CP are fixed
- › Study abroad semester
- › with accompanying course "Organizing a Study Abroad Semester"
- › Total scope : 41 CP plus the CP for the semester abroad

Electives

- › In the elective area, 2 courses must be completed with an examination
- › All further courses serve to acquire the required total amount of 240 CP



Lower division studies

Course number	Course title	Credit Points (CP)	Workload	Weekly hours per semester (WHS)	Weekly hours per semester		Weekly hours per semester		Form of examination	
					1st year		2nd year			
					Winter semester 1	Summer semester 2	Winter semester 3	Summer semester 4		
Course section „Foundational courses“										
B2020	Basics for Studying	6	180	6	6				Paper	
B1001	Hermeneutik und exegetische Methoden	5	150	4		4			Exegetical research Paper	
B4021	Methods of Empirical Research	5	150	4				4	Project work	
Course section „Biblical Theology“										
B1101	Einführung in das Alte Testament	12	360	10			5	5	In-class exam	
B1203	Einführung in das Neue Testament	12	360	10	5	5			Oral exam	
Course section „Historical und Systematic Theology“										
B1300	Kirchen- und Missionsgeschichte im Überblick	10	300	8	4	4			Paper	
B1405	Dogmatics: God – Creation – Christ*	5	150	4			4		Book report	
B1406	Dogmatics: Salvation – Church – Last Things*	5	150	4				4	In-class exam	
Course section „Intercultural Theology and Religious Sciences“										
B1600	Kulturen und Religionen	8	240	9	5	4			Paper	
B1621	Issues in World Christianity*	5	150	3			3		In-class exam	
B1624	Theology of Ecumenical and Interreligious Encounters*	5	150	3				3	In-class exam	
Course section „Development Studies“										
B4401	History and Theory of Development	5	150	4	4				In-class exam	
B4402	Contexts of International Development	5	150	4		4			In-class exam	
B4403	Project Cycle Management	5	150	4		4			In-class exam	
B4404	Intercultural Communication and Competence	5	150	3	3				In-class exam	
B4405	Christian Approaches in Poverty Alleviation	9	270	7			7		Paper	
B4406	Education, Health and Vulnerable Groups	9	270	6				6	Paper	
B4409	Sustainability and Planetary Limits	5	150	3			3		In-class exam	

Courses offered in English or German are marked with an asterisk (*)

Upper division studies: Compulsory courses

	Course number	Course title	Credit Points (CP)	Workload	Weekly hours per semester	Weekly hours per semester		Form of examination
						Upper division		
						Winter semester, 7th semester	Summer semester, 8th semester	
Upper division studies								
	B2004	Ethics, Pedagogy and Social Responsibility in the Biblical Tradition	5	150	4		4	Oral exam
	B1603	Theology of Missional Living*	5	150	3	3		In-class exam
	B1625	Theology in Context*	5	150	3		3	In-class exam
	B4407	Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues and Discourses	5	150	3	3		In-class exam
	B4408	Humanitarian Aid - History, Theory, Functions and Principles	5	150	3		3	In-class exam
	B0103	Bachelor Thesis TDS	10	300	1	7th/8th semester		Bachelor thesis
	B2604	Internship Semester TDS	30	900		5th or 6th semester		Internship report
	B2021	Organizing a Study Abroad Semester	6	180	1	1		Presentation

Courses offered in English or German are marked with an asterisk (*)

Upper division studies: Elective courses

Courses in English

B1122	Old Testament: Pentateuch
B1123	Old Testament: Prophets
B1124	History of Israel
B1125	Monotheism, Violence, Messianic Expectations
B1221	Introduction to Biblical Greek
B1409	Christian Eschatology in Context
B1623	Comparative Studies of Religion in Asia

Courses in German

B1108	Alttestamentliche Ethik
B1204	Jesus in den synoptischen Evangelien
B1206	Johannesevangelium
B1207	Paulus
B1303	Geschichte des sozialen Handelns im Christentum
B1400	Christlicher Glaube in einer nachchristlichen Welt: praktisch-theologisch
B1505	Ethische Konflikte – Wege und Schritte der Entscheidungsfindung
B1606	Kirche und Milieu: Herausforderungen und Chancen
B1607	Oekumenische Kirchenkunde
B1617	Empirische Forschung im interkulturellen Kontext
B2100	Einführung in die Psychologie
B2104	Grundlegende Elemente wirksamer Kommunikation
B2200	Soziologie
B2304	Gerechtigkeit (wieder)herstellen? Einführung in Restorative Justice
B2401	Führung und Coaching
B2500	Einführung in die Philosophie
B2802	Politik, Gesellschaft, Christentum

Courses in German (continued)

B3101	Einführung in die Erwachsenen- & Weiterbildung
B3102	Professionelle Handlungskompetenz in der Erwachsenen- & Weiterbildung
B3503	Freiwilligenarbeit in Non-Profit-Organisationen
B4105_1	Migration
B4105_2	Flucht und Asyl

Courses offered in the elective area may vary each year. All courses are described in detail in the module handbook.



Program Director

- › **Prof. Dr. Detlef Hiller**
contact: detlef.hiller@ihl.eu
[Link to profile](#)

The IHL team supports you
with all questions
concerning your studies:

- › **Elvira Adam**
Student Affairs Office
- › **Eva-Maria Hengel**
Program Management
- › **Theresia Henninger**
Examination Office
- › **Lucas Wehner**
International Office

[Click here for the contact details of the team](#)

Internationale Hochschule Liebenzell

Heinrich-Coerper-Weg 11
75378 Bad Liebenzell
info@ihl.eu | www.ihl.eu

More information on
B.A. Theology/Development Studies
can be found on our website:

